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Romania Appoints New Environment Minister

Report Categories:

Agricultural Situation

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Report Highlights:

Attila Korodi is appointed as the Minister of Environment following Laszlo Borbely's recent resignation. Minister Korodi held this position for about 18 months during 2007-2008.

General Information:

On April 10, Attila Korodi, Hungarian Democrat Party in Romania (UDMR), took the oath of office. Born in 1977, Attila Korodi graduated in 2001 from the University Politehnica in Bucharest, Economic Engineering in German language. Two years later he earned his Master of Science in Strategic Management. In 2005, Mr. Korodi was appointed as Secretary of State in the Ministry of Environment and Water Management. Two years later, in April 2007, he became Minister.

During his previous tenure, Mr. Korodi opposed agricultural biotechnology. In his speech of March 2008, the Minister praised organic agriculture and advised farmers not to plant biotech-enhanced corn (2008 was the second year of MON 810 planting in Romania). In April 2008, the Minister requested the Bio-safety Commission conduct a risk assessment of MON 810 on environment and human health, as he appeared determined to forbid cultivation of the biotech-enhanced corn. The Bio-safety Commission, however, issued a decision favorable for MON 810 thus farmers were able to continue planting such seed.

In December 2008, Mr. Korodi was elected to the Chamber of Deputies, and for a year acted as a member of the Commission for Environment. Since February 2010 he has been the president of the Commission for Foreign Policy, within the Chamber of Deputies.

Minister Korodi succeeds Laszlo Borbely who resigned his Ministry due to an investigation into allegations related to influence peddling and false declaration in financial statements. In his resignation statement, Mr. Borbely noted he was submitting his resignation to protect the image of the Romanian Government.